

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, 18, 19, 22, 23, 71-73, 99, 100, 102, 103, and 105-109 are now pending. Claims 4, 23, 99, 100, and 103 have been amended to further clarify the claimed subject matter. Claims 3, 4, 22, 23, 99, 100, 102, and 103 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

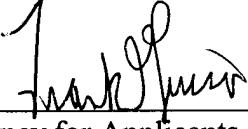
Applicants have amended Claims 4, 23, 100, and 103 by changing “a distance” to --distances--, and Claim 99 has been amended by changing “the distance” to --distances--. This feature is along the lines of that admitted by the Examiner as being patentable subject matter in the Office Action of January 29, 2004, where the Examiner explained that “[t]he prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest detecting distances between the ejected portion and one, some or all of the plurality of portions, i.e. more than one detection. The prior art teaches measuring the distances once and coating but not for measuring multiple time[s] across the plurality of portions.” *See page 5, Section Heading 7.*

All of the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, at least the reasons given in the Amendment filed on April 29, 2004.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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